

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 236

By Marrero B

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis.

WHEREAS, this body takes great pride in those esteemed higher education centers of learning whose scholarship and community service win national acclaim and recognition, bringing honor upon themselves and the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, such a distinguished organization is the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis, which has been working with students at the University of Memphis and the citizens of the entire Memphis community since 1982; and

WHEREAS, based in the College of Arts & Sciences, the nationally recognized Center collaborates with scholars and researchers in psychology, history, sociology, anthropology, economics, health sciences, public administration, and other fields in addition to developing partnerships with representatives from local, state, and federal government agencies and a variety of non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, over the past twenty-seven years, researchers from the Center for Research on Women (CROW) have tackled a broad range of issues of critical importance to women – from work, wages and workplace discrimination, immigration, unfair labor practices, and international fair and free trade, to domestic violence, sexual assault, and women's economic status; and

WHEREAS, CROW has been a driving force in examining problems of social inequality as they relate to gender, race, class, and sexual orientation with a brand of action-oriented, community-based research that strengthens the public's understanding of women's experiences in Memphis and contributes to local, regional, and national policy discussions; and

WHEREAS, reaching out to the Memphis community, CROW has supported Girls for Change, a leadership and policy training project for teen girls coordinated by the Memphis Area Women's Council. During the last three years, teenage girls from over twenty different public, private, and parochial schools in Shelby County have participated, learning to identify and articulate problems, conduct and utilize research, and organize with others to take action on issues important to them; and

WHEREAS, with support from The Urban Child Institute and the University of Memphis Faculty Research Grant Program, CROW has surveyed more than 500 middle and high school-aged youth in Memphis on the frequency, types, and long-term impact of sexual harassment experienced by teenagers in Memphis middle and high schools; and

WHEREAS, CROW is a leader in the Memphis Safe Campus Consortium, which seeks to reduce and prevent violence against women on every college campus in Memphis. With support from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, they have led the charge in campus awareness initiatives and progressive policy for sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and women's history; and

WHEREAS, recently, CROW researchers were awarded a contract for \$780,000 over four years by Governor Phil Bredesen's statewide Infant Mortality Initiative to evaluate "Community Voice," a program designed by the March of Dimes to improve maternal health and to reduce premature births and infant mortality in the African American community; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by CROW in the area of local workforce development efforts for women has allowed them to create a long term plan to improve women's economic self-sufficiency in Memphis and Shelby County, establishing their commitment to progressing the quality of life in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, among the tremendous completed research projects from CROW are: Across Races and Nations: Building New Communities in the U.S. South, Globalizations and the Paradoxes of Place: Poverty and Power in Memphis, and Women and the Workforce: Job Training for Low-Income Memphians; and

WHEREAS, during the year of their silver anniversary, the Center for Research on Women presented the exhibit entitled "SnapShots: Memphis Women at Work" to honor twenty-five of Memphis' most influential women; and

WHEREAS, in addition to ongoing research, CROW program offerings include Community Issues Forums, Faculty Research Interest Groups, the Women's Academic Network, the Women's Research Forum, and workshops, conference, and special events in addition to research experience and monitoring for graduate students in Women's Studies and other disciplines; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that this body pause to specially recognize such a remarkable organization on its educational research, community outreach, and service to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the Center for Research on Women at the University of Memphis for its tremendous efforts on behalf of women everywhere and its dedicated service to the greater Memphis community and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.